

## Foreword

The Department of Consumer Affairs' (DCA) 2003 Legislative Digest is a summary of significant consumer protection legislation introduced during the 2003-2004 legislative session and finalized in 2003.

We have organized the Digest by subject category, bill number, and chapter number. The three major subject categories are **General Consumer Protection, Professional and Business Regulation**, and **DCA Administration**. Each category contains numerous subcategories. Some bills may be referenced in more than one category or subcategory.

Several of the 2003 bills will be carried over to the 2004 session. Also, many two-year bills were placeholder or "spot" bills that will be substantially amended in the second year of the 2003-2004 session. Unless otherwise indicated, enacted bills become effective on January 1, 2004. For brevity, most entries are cross-referenced wherever appropriate.

The **Contents** page lists each subject heading within the three subject categories. The subject headings within each category refer you to the page number where the summaries appear for each subject.

The **Bill Summaries** are organized numerically by bill number under each subcategory. This section provides a brief summary of each bill, the bill's author, and its disposition. Unlike past years, we are now listing omnibus bills under each affected program. AB and SB indicate Assembly and Senate bills, respectively.

The **Appendix** contains a Bill Number Index, a Chaptered Bill Index, a Department of Consumer Affairs Directory, and an overview of the Legislative Process.

All department and agency references are for California entities, unless noted otherwise.

While we have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this digest, please refer to the California codes for exact statutory citations.

For further information on bills, relevant code sections, the Governor's veto messages, or bill authors, you can consult [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov) or your local legislator. For additional copies of the digest, please consult [www.dca.ca.gov](http://www.dca.ca.gov) or contact the Department's Division of Legislative and Regulatory Review at (916) 327-5196.